

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: EXCEPTIONS

TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 67

1. IN RESTRICTED MEETING FEB 19 STOESSEL REITERATED US POSITION THAT AGREEMENT CANNOT PROVIDE FOR EXCEPTIONS TO LIMIT OF 150 KILOTONS ON MAXIMUM YIELD OF INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS, SPECIFICALLY RECOUNTING KISSINGER-GROMYKO JAN 23 CONVERSATION (MOSCOW 1070).

2. MOROKHOV ROAMED OVER SEVERAL QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT US SIDE "NEVER" EXPLAINING ANYTHING.

3. MOROKHOV FINALLY ASKED IF US SIDE WAS CONCERNED THAT EXCEPTIONS AS PROPOSED BY SOVIET SIDE COULD INVOLVE TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF YIELDS GREATER THAN 150 KILOTONS. STOESSEL SAID HE HAD NOT MENTIONED THIS IN HIS REMARKS, BUT IT WAS A CONSIDERATION.

4. MOROKHOV SAID THIS SHOULD BE NO CONCERN BECAUSE NO REPEAT NO EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WOULD BE USED HAVING YIELDS HIGHER THAN 150 KILOTONS.

5. WHEN QUESTIONED, MOROKHOV SAID SOVIET SIDE HAD NEVER PROPOSED ALLOWING USE OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES HAVING
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YIELDS HIGHER THAN 150 KILOTONS. THIS NOT POSSIBLE,

MOROKHOV SAID, SINCE ALL DEVICE DEVELOPMENT HAD TO BE DONE AT SPECIFIED NUCLEAR WEAPON TEST SITES, AND THERE IS AGREED PROHIBITION AGAINST SUCH OVER 150 KILOTONS.

6. MOROKHOV'S EXPLANATION GOES LIKE THIS:

A) DEFINITION OF GROUP EXPLOSION IN DRAFT TREATY DECLARES AN ASSEMBLY OF EXPLOSIONS TO BE A GROUP IF SPACING BETWEEN EXPLOSIVES IS 40 KILOMETERS OR LESS.

(B) CONDITIONS IN AGREED PORTIONS OF PROTOCOL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS IN A GROUP CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND THEIR YIELDS MEASURED ONLY IF SPACING BETWEEN EXPLOSIVES IS 10 OR MORE METERS TIMES CUBE ROOT OF YIELD.

(C) IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT AN ASSEMBLY OF EXPLOSIONS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A GROUP AS INTENDED IN THE TREATY IF CONDITION (A) OR CONDITION (B) NOT SATISFIED. IN PARTICULAR, AN ASSEMBLY IN WHICH SPACING IS TOO SMALL TO SATISFY CONDITION (B) MUST BE CONSIDERED TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSION AND ITS AGGREGATE YIELD MUST BE LIMITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREED PROVISIONS GOVERNING INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS.

(D) WHAT SOVIET SIDE HAS ADVOCATED "ALL ALONG" IS PROVISION FOR THREE INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS (IN SENSE OF "INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSION" DESCRIBED IN (C) PER YEAR WITH AGGREGATE YIELD HIGHER THAN 150 KILOTONS BUT NOT REPEAT NOT USING INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIVES HAVING YIELDS HIGHER THAN 150 KILOTONS.

(E) THESE "INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS" WOULD BE CARRIED OUT USING SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIVES (EACH HAVING YIELDS LESS THAN 150 KILOTONS), BUT WITH SPACING BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIVES "MUCH LESS" THAN 10 METERS TIMES CUBE ROOT OF YIELD.

7. MOROKHOV SAID HE ASSUMED THAT US SIDE WOULD WANT SLIFER SENSING CABLES DOWN ALONGSIDE CANISTERS IN VERIFYING SUCH EXPLOSIONS, AND THAT SOVIET EXPERTS HAD SOME IDEAS ON APPROACHES TO VERIFICATION IN SUCH CASES.

8. MOROKHOV ENDED BY SAYING THIS SUBJECT NOT YET
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SUITABLE FOR DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET EXPERTS.

9. COMMENT:

(A) MOROKHOV SAID NOTHING EITHER TO RECONFIRM OR TO AMEND STANDING SOVIET POSITION THAT VERIFICATION POROCEDURES SHOULD BE WORKED OUT IN FUTURE ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

(B) FROM MOROKHOV'S REMARKS, DELEGATION BELIEVES

SOVIET SIDE NOT NOW ASKING FOR "EXCEPTIONS" IN SENSE
THAT THEIR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN INTERPRETED HERETOFORE,
BUT FOR SOME PROVISION AIMED AT FUTURE RELIEF FROM
10W(1/3) SPECIFICATION OF MINIMUM SPACING BETWEEN
EXPLOSIVES.

(C) ONLY REASON DELEGATION PERCEIVES FOR PUTTING
EXPLOSIVES CLOSER THAN 10W(1/3) IS TO LAY OUT A GROUP
EXPLOSION TO ACHIEVE EFFECT EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF
SINGLE EXPLOSIVE WITH YIELD GREATER THAN INDIVIDUAL
EXPLOSIVE LIMIT.

END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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